IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for protecting a data transmission using a plurality of standard code books where each of the code books encodes a standard portion of the data transmission, comprising:

scrambling at least one of codes among the code books or a correspondence between the code books and portions of the data transmission;

encoding data based on scrambled at least one of codes or code books; and

transmitting encoded data.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim l, wherein the scrambling step scrambles the standard codes so that a decoder of the standard codes ~~may one of successfully decode the encoded data or~~ cannot successfully decode the encoded data.

3. (Original) The method of claim l, wherein the scrambling step is performed based on scrambling information, the scrambling information being transmitted with the encoded data.

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4. (Original) T he method of claim 1, wherein the standard code books are Huffman code books.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting a data transmission using one or more standard codes, comprising:

scrambling every one of the standard codes appearing in said data into other standard codes according to scrambling information that is based on one or more of a fixed table or an algorithm;

encoding data based on scrambled standard codes; and

transmitting encoded data.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the algorithm is initialized with an initial value.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, ~~wherein~~ where in one or more of the fixed table~~s~~, an identification of the algorithm or the initial value is either agreed upon between a transmitter and one or more intended receivers prior to transmission of the encoded data or transmitted with the encoded data.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, ~~wherein~~ where in one or more of the fixed table ~~s~~, the identification of the algorithm or the initial value is transmitted in encrypted form ~~prior to transmission~~.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the transmitted data include in-stream data that indicates a change of code book or code scrambling.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the standard codes are Huffman code books.

11. (Original) An apparatus that protects a data transmission using a plurality of standard code books where each of the code books encodes a standard portion of the data transmission, comprising:

a scrambler that scrambles at least one of codes among the code books or a correspondence between the code books and portions of the data transmission;

an encoder coupled to the scrambler that encodes data based on scrambled at least one of codes or code books; and

a transmitter that transmits encoded data.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the scrambler scrambles standard codes so that a decoder of the standard codes ~~may one of successfully decode the encoded data or~~ cannot successfully decode the encoded data.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the scrambler scrambles based on scrambling information, the scrambling information being transmitted with the encoded data.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the standard code books are Huffman code books.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the scrambling information is based on one or more of a fixed table or an algorithm.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the algorithm is initialized with an initial value.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, ~~wherein~~ where in one or more of the fixed tables, an identification of the algorithm or the initial value is either agreed upon between a transmitter and one or more intended receivers prior to transmission of the encoded data or transmitted with the encoded data.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ where in one or more of the fixed tables, the identification of the algorithm or the initial value is transmitted in encrypted form ~~prior to transmission~~.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the transmitted data include in-stream data that indicates a change of code book or code scrambling.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the standard codes are Huffman code books.

21. (New) A method for protecting a data transmission using one or more standard codes, comprising:

scrambling the standard codes into other standard codes according to scrambling information that is based on one or more of a fixed table;

encoding data based on scrambled standard codes; and

transmitting encoded data.

22. (New) The method of claim 1 where said scrambling is performed on a selected portion of information in the data transmission.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 where the data represents video and audio information, and said portion that is not selected for scrambling is a portion of said video and/or audio that is desired to be decoded with said code books.

24. (New) The method of claim 22 where said portion is selected based on content of said data transmission.

25. (New) The method of claim 22 where said portion is distributed in time, so that selected time intervals are not scrambled.

26 (New) The method of claim The method of claim 22 where said portion is selected so that information in a selected frequency band is scrambled and in another frequency band it is not scrambled.

27. (New) The method of claim 1 where said data transmission is divided into sub-streams, and each sub-stream employs a different one of said standard code books.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 where information in said data transmission is divided into said sub-streams based on type of information, frequency band of said information, and/or time intervals.

29 (New) A method comprising the steps of

accepting a stream of data,

developing from said data a stream of codewords, where each codeword belongs to a code book, where

- in connection with a selected portion of said data, each codeword is developed in accordance with process A, or process B, where

(a) from strings of data bits, process A creates codewords consisting of one or more concatenated bits $b_0, \ldots b_j$, where j is an integer that may differ from codeword to codeword, pursuant to a standard first code book, followed by replacing the created codewords with another created codeword consisting of one or more concatenated bits $a_0, \ldots a_k$, that is different from said created codebook and belongs to a second code book, said another created codeword being created by other than setting

(i) j to k,

(ii) $a_0, \ldots a_{j-1}$ to $b_0, \ldots b_{j-1}$, and

(iii) a_j either to b_j or an inverse thereof,

(b) from strings of data bits, process B creating codewords pursuant to a non-standard code book said created codewords being converted codewords;

- in connection with other than said selected portion of said developed codewords, if any, each codeword, consisting of one or more concatenated bits $b_0, \ldots b_j$, where j is an integer that may differ from codeword to codeword, is created pursuant to said standard first code book; and

transmitting said codewords created in connection with said selected portion, and in connection with said other than said selected portion, if any.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 where said second code book is other than said standard code book.

31. (New) The method of claim 29 where said second code book is said standard code book.

32. (New) The method of claim 29 where said selected portion comprises sub-portions, and each of the sub-portions develops codewords pursuant to in accordance with process A, or process B that employs its own second code book.

33. (New) The method of claim 29 where said selected portion is based on information content.

34. (New) The method of claim 29 where said selected portion is time intervals based.

35. (New) The method of claim 27 where said selected portion is based on spectrum of information contained in said data stream.

36. (New) The method of claim 29 where codewords provided by process A or process B to said step of transmitting have a length that is equal to codewords that would have been created by employing said standard first code book.

37. (New) The method of claim 29 where said second code book is selected from a set of preselected code books, and the selection of said second code book is not fixed.